Lieut: Generall *Cromwells*

LETTER

TO

The Houſe of Commons,

OF

All the Particulars of taking the City of

BRISTOLL;

And the manner of P: *Ruperts* marching to Oxford.

Together with two Orders;

The one, for a Day of Thankſgiving in all parts of the Kingdom within the power of the Parliament. And the other, for a Collection for a diſtreſſed and plundered party in the ſaid City of Briſtoll.

Ordered by the Commons aſſembled in Parliament, That this Letter and Orders be forthwith printed, and read in all Churches and Chappels in the Lines of Communication and Bills of Mortality, and in all other parts of the kingdom within the power of the Parliament:

H: Elſynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

London, Printed for *Edward Husband*, Printer to the Honorable Houſe of Commons, *Sept.* 22. 1645.

LETTER

TO

The House of Commons,

OF

All the Particulars of taking the City of

BRISTOLL;

And the manner of Prayers marching to Orders,

Together with two Orders;

The one, for a Day of Thanksgiving in all parts of the Kingdom within the power of the Parliament.

And the other, for a Collection for a distressed and plundered party in the said City of Bristoll.

SIR,

IT hath pleaſed the Generall to give me in charge to repreſent unto you a particular Accompt of the taking of *Briſtoll*, the which I gladly undertake.

After the finiſhing of that Service at *Sherborn*, it was diſputed at a Councell of War, whether we ſhould march into the Weſt, or to *Briſtoll*? Amongſt other Arguments, the leaving ſo conſiderable an Enemy at our backs to march into the heart of the Kingdom, the undoing of the Country about *Briſtoll*, which was exceedingly harraſſed by the Prince his being but a Fortnight thereabouts, the correſpondence he might hold with Wales, the poſſibility of uniting the Enemies Forces where they pleaſed, and eſpecially the drawing to an Head the diſ-affected Clubmen of Somerſet, Wilts, and Dorſet, when once our backs were towards them. Theſe conſiderations, together with the taking ſo important a place, ſo Advantageous for the opening of Trade to London, did ſway the ballance, and begat that concluſion. When we came within four miles of the City, we had a new debate, whether we ſhould endeavour to Block it up, or make a Regular Siege; The latter being overruled, Colonel *Welden* with his Brigade, marched to Pile-hill, on the South ſide of the City, being within Musquet ſhot thereof, where in a few dayes they made a good Quarter, over-looking the City; upon our advance, the Enemy fired Bedminſter, Clifton, and ſome other Villages, and would have fired the Countrey thereabouts, if our unexpected coming had not hindred. The Generall cauſed ſome Horſe and Dragoons under Commiſſary Generall *Ireton*, to Advance over Avon, to keep in the Enemy on the North ſide of the Town, until the Foot could come up; and after a day, the Generall, with Colonell *Montagues*, and Colonell *Rainsboroughs* Brigades, marched over at Keynſham to Stapleton, where he Quartered that Night; the next day, Colonell *Montague* having his Poſt aſſigned with his Brigade, was to ſecure all between

Froom and Avon: he came up to Lawfords-gate, within Musquet shot thereof: Colonell *Rainsboroughs* Post was near to Durdham Down, where the Dragooners and three Regiments of Horse made good a Post upon the Down between him and the River Avon on his right hand, and from Colonell *Raipsboroughs* Quarters to Froom River on his left: A part of Colonell *Birch*, and Major Generall *Skippons* Regiment were to maintain that Post; these Posts being thus setled, our horse were forced to be upon exceeding great duty to stand by the foot, least the foot being so weak in all their Posts, might receive an affront; and truly herein we were very happy, that we should receive so little losse by Sallies, considering the paucity of our men to make good the Posts, and the strength of the Enemy within, by Sallies, (which were three or four) I know not that we lost thirty men in all the time of our Siege; of Officers of quality, onely Colonell *Okey*, was taken by mistake going to the enemy, thinking them to be friends, and Captain *Guilliams* slain in a charge: We took Sir *Barnard Astley*, and killed Sir *Richard Crane*, one very considerable with the Prince: We had a Councell of War concerning the Storming of the Town about eight dayes before we took it, and in that there appeared great unwillingnesse to the work, through the unseasonablenesse of the weather, and other apparant difficulties. Some inducement to bring us thither, was the report of the good affection of the Townsmen to us, but that did not answer expectation: Upon a second consideration, it was over-ruled for a Storme, which no sooner concluded, but difficulties were removed, and all things seemed to favour the designe; and indeed there hath been seldome the like cheerfulnesse in Officers and Souldiers to any work like to this, after it was once resolved on. The day and hour of our Storm, was appointed to be Wednesday morning the 10. about one of the clock, we chose to act it so early, because we hoped thereby to surprize the Enemy, with this resolution also (to avoid confusion, and falling foule upon one another) that when we had recovered the Line, and Forts upon it, we could not advance further until day. The Generalls signall unto the Storm was the firing of Straw, and discharging four piece of Canon at Prior hill Fort, the signall was very well perceived by all, and truly the men went on with great resolution, and very presently recovered the Line, making way for the horse to enter, Colonell *Montague* and Colonell *Pickering* who stormed

at Lawfords gate, where was a double work well filled with men and canon, presently entred, and with great resolution beat the Enemy from their works, and possessed their canon, their expedition was such, that they forced the Enemy from their advantages, without any considerable losse to themselves, they laid down the Bridges for the horse to enter; Major *Desborough* commanding the horse, who very gallantly seconded the foot; then our foot advanced to the city walls, where they possessed the gate against the Castle-street, whereinto were put a hundred men, who made it good: Sir *Hardresse Waller* with his and the Generalls Regiment, with no lesse resolution, entred on the other side of Lawfords Gate towards Avon River, and put themselves into an immediate conjunction with the rest of the Brigade: During this, Colonell *Rainsborow* and Colonell *Hamond* attempted Prior-hill Fort, and the Line downwards towards Froom, Colonell *Birch*, and the Major Generals Regiment being to Storme towards Froome River; Colonell *Hamond* possessed the Line immediatly, and beating the Enemy from it, made way for our horse to enter: Colonell *Rainsborow*, who had the hardest taske of all at Prior hill Fort, attempted it, and fought near three hours for it; and indeed there was great despair of carrying the place, it being exceeding high, a Ladder of thirty rounds scarce reaching the top thereof; but his resolution was such, that notwithstanding the inaccessablenesse and difficulty, he would not give it over: The Enemy had four piece of canon upon it, which they plyed with round and case shot upon our men, his Lieutenant Colonell *Bowen*, and others, were two hours at push of Pike, standing upon the Pallizadoes but could not enter; Col: *Hamond*, being entred the Line, and Capt. *Ireton* with a Forlorn of Col: *Riches* Regiment, interposing with his Horse between the Enemies Horse and Col: *Hamond*, received a shot with two Pistoll bullets, which brake his Arme, by means the entrance of Col. *Hamond* did Storm the Fort on that part which was inward: By which means, Col. *Rainsbrough* and Col: *Hamonds* men entred the Fort, and immediatly put to the Sword, almost all in it; and as this was the place of most difficulty, so of most losse to us on that side, and of very great honour to the undertaker. The Horse did second them with great resolution; both these Colonels do acknowledge, that their interposition between the Enemies Horse and their Foot, was a great means of obtaining this strong Fort, without

which,

which, all the reſt of the Line to Froom-River, would have done us little good; and indeed, neither Horſe nor Foot would have ſtood in all that way, in any manner of ſecurity, had not the Fort been taken.

Major *Bethels* were the firſt horſe entred the Line, who did behave himſelf very gallantly, and was ſhot in the thigh, had one or two ſhots more, and his horſe killed under him.

Colonell *Birch* with his men, and the Major Generalls Regiment, entred with very good Reſolution, where their Poſt was, poſſeſſing the Enemies Guns, and turning them upon them.

By this all the Line from Priors-hill Fort, to Avon, which was a full mile, with all the Forts, Ordnance, and Bulwarks, were poſſeſſed by us; but one wherein there were about an hundred and twenty men of the Enemy, which the Generall Summoned, and all the men ſubmitted.

The ſucceſſe on Colonell *Weldens* ſide, did not anſwer with this, and although the Colonells and other the Officers and Souldiers both Horſe & Foot, teſtified very much reſolution as could be expected; Colonell *Welden*, Col. *Ingoldsby*, Col. *Herbert*, and the reſt of the Colonells, and Officers, both of Horſe and Foot, doing what could be well looked for from men of honour, yet what by reaſon of the height of the Works, which proved higher then report made them, and the ſhortneſſe of the Ladders, they were repulſed with the loſſe of about 100 men, Col. *Forteſtues* Lieutenant colonell was killed, Major *Cromwell* dangerouſly ſhot, and two of Col. *Ingoldsbies* brothers hurt, with ſome Officers.

Being poſſeſſed of thus much as hath been related, the Town was fired in three places by the Enemy, which we could not put out, and this began a great trouble to the Generall, and us all, fearing to ſee ſo famous a City burnt to aſhes before our faces, whiles we were viewing ſo ſad a ſpectacle, and conſulting which way to make further advantage of our Succeſſe; the Prince ſent a Trumpet to the Generall, to deſire a Treaty for the ſurrender of the Towne, to which the Generall agreed, and deputed Colonell *Mountague*, Col. *Rainsborow*, and Col. *Pickering* for that Service. Authorizing them with Inſtructions to treat, and conclude the Articles which are theſe incloſed: For performance whereof, Hoſtages were mutually given on *Thurſday* about two of the clock in the afternoone. The Prince marched out having

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a convoy of two Regiments of Horſe from us, and making Election of *Oxford* for the place he would goe to, which he had liberty to doe by his Articles.

The Canon which we have taken are about one hundred and forty mounted, about 100. barrels of Powder, already come to our hands, with a good quantity of Shot, Ammunition, and Arms, we have found already between two and three thouſand Musquets. The Royall Fort had in it victuals for one hundred and fifty men, for three hundred and twenty dayes, the Caſtle victualled for neere halfe ſo long: The Prince had foot of the Garriſon as the Major of the City informed me, two thouſand five hundred, and about one thouſand horſe, beſide the Trayned bands of the Towne, and Auxiliaries one thouſand, ſome ſay fifteen hundred: I heare but one man hath died of the Plague in all our Army, although we have quartered amongſt and in the midſt of infected perſons and places, we had not killed of ours in this ſtorme, nor all this ſiege two hundred men.

Thus I have given you a true, but not a full account of this great buſineſſe wherein he that runs may read that all this is none other then the worke of God, he muſt be a very Atheiſt that doth not acknowledge it.

It may be thought that ſome praiſes are due to theſe gallant men, of whoſe valour ſo much mention is made, their humble ſuite to you and all that have an intereſt in this bleſſing is, that in remembrance of Gods prayſes they may be forgotten: Its their joy that they are inſtruments to Gods glory, and their Countries good, its their honour that God vouchſafes to uſe them: Sir, they that have beene imployed in this Service know, that faith and Prayer obtained this City for you; I doe not ſay ours onely, but of the people of God with you, and all *England* over, who have wraſtled with God for a bleſſing in this very thing. Our deſires are, that God may be glorified by the ſame Spirit of faith, by which we aske all our ſufficiency, and having received it, it is meet that he have all the praiſe.

Your humble Servant,

From *Briſtoll*, 14. Sept. 1645.

Oliver Cromwell.

17. *September*, 1645.

ORdered by the Commons assembled in Parliament, That on the next Lords-Day thanks be given unto God for the great Successe he hath given unto the Parliaments Forces under Sir *Tho: Fairfax* their Generall, in taking in the City of Bristoll, with the Castle and Forts, in all the Churches and Chappels within the Lines of Communication, and Bills of Mortality; and that the next Lords-Day come Fortnight, being the fift day of October, in all the parts of the Kingdom, within the power of the Parliament; And that the Lord Major of the City of London, do give timely notice hereof, to all the Ministers within the Lines of Communication, and Bills of Mortality; And that the Knights and Burgesses of the severall Counties, Cities, and Burroughs, do give notice hereof, and send Copies of this Order to the severall Counties, Cities and Burroughs: It is further Ordered, That the Relation sent up from Lieutenant Generall *Cromwell*, by the command of the Generall, of Septemb. 14. be Printed, and Read upon the dayes on which publique thanks are to be given unto God, for his great blessing in this Successe given at Bristoll,

H: Elsynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

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17. *September*, 1645.

ORdered by the Commons assembled in Parliament, That on the next Lords-day on which publique thanks is appointed to be given to Almighty God, for the great Successe at Bristoll, a collection be made in all the Churches and Chappels within the Lines of Communication, and weekly Bills of Mortality: And the Moneys collected, paid into the Treasurers for maimed Souldiers, at Tallow-chandlers Hall, by the severall collectors and receivers of the said Moneys, within two dayes after the said collection, and by the said Treasurers, distributed for the Relief of many distressed and Plundered people of Bristoll and the places adjacent.

H: Elsynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

FINIS.